

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 00395 271727Z

43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ARAE-00 /079 W

----- 050743

P 271556Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2639

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 0395

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, CS

SUBJECT: REGIONAL STUDY OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS SUPPLY

REF: STATE 15423,

1. COMMENTS REQUESTED REFTTEL, PARA 2 AS FOLLOWS:

A. FACTORS FAVORING REGIONAL CONVENTIONAL ARMS
RESTRAINT: COSTA RICA'S LACK OF CONVENTIONAL ARMED
FORCES PLACES IT IN UNIQUE POSITION TO SUPPORT
CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT. OVER THE YEARS COSTA RICA
HAS TRADITIONALLY ADVOCATED SUCH RESTRAINT, WITHOUT
MAKING IT A CRUSADE. PRIOR TO MOST RECENT MEETING OF
CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS IN GUATEMALA, FOREIGN MINISTER
FACIO WAS TO HAVE PRESENTED SUCH A PROPOSAL; FOR
REASONS UNKNOWN TO EMBASSY HE DID NOT.

B. OBSTACLE TO REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT: FOR
COSTA RICA.

C. POSSIBLE SQNR-REGIONAL APPROACHES: THE MOST
DESIREABLE FROM COSTA RICA'S VIEWPOINT WOULD BE A CENTRAL AMERICAN/
PANAMA ARRANGEMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN JO 00395 271727Z

D. LATIN AMERICAN SENSITIVITY TO A U.S. LEAD:

COSTA RICA WOULD FEEL NO PARTICULAR DISCOMFITURE AT A U.S. LEAD IN ARMS RESTRAINT IN THE AREA. BECAUSE OF COSTA RICA'S CIVILIST, NON-MILITARY BENT, THE GOCR--EVEN THE SLIGHT LEFT-OF-CENTER PLN GOVERNMENT--WOULD TEND TO APPLAUD SUCH A MOVE--THOUGH IT WOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROBABLY ADVERSE REACTION OF ITS NEIGHBORS, AT LEAST PANAMA.

E. MOST FEASIBLE RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENTS: DOES NOT APPLY TO COSTA RICA.

2. RE PARA 3, ALTHOUGH AN ARGUMENT COULD BE MADE FOR A SOLUTION OF THE HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR CONFLICT AS A PRE-CONDITION FOR AMRS SUPPLY RESTRAINT, COSTA RICA WOULD CONSIDER ANY TIME PROPITIOUS FOR THE INITIATION OF SUCH A POLICY--THE SOONER THE BETTER. AGAIN, COSTA RICA WOULD NOT MAKE A CRUSADE OF THIS ISSUE; ITS POLICY VIZ A VIZ ITS NEIGHBORS WHO ARE ARMED IS LIVE LET LIVE RATHER THAN HOLIER THAN THOU. ON REFLECTION, COSTA RICA MIGHT WELL PREFER SOME GRADUAL ENACTMENT OF U.S. ARMS SUPPLY RESTRAINT--WORKING TOWARD THE GOAL OF SUPPLY OF NO NEW WEAPONS, BUT RATHER PROVISION OF REPLACEMENT PARTS AND AMMUNITION FOR EXISTING ORDNANCE. A MORE ABRUPT CHANGE THAT MIGHT CAUSE COSTA RICAN, NEIGHBORS TO TURN TOWARD NON-AMERICAN SUPPLIERS WOULD NOT BE WELCOME HERE; IT WOULD BE VIEWED AS LEADING TO A DIMINUTION OF U.S. INFLUENCE WITH COSTA RICA'S MILITARIST NEIGHBORS. THE COSTA RICANS RELY ON THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM AND, REALLY, BEHIND THE SCENES, U.S. INFLUENCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA TO THWART ANY TERRITORIAL DESIGNS OF ITS NEIGHBORS.

3. RE PARA 4, COSTA RICA WOULD TEND TO FAVOR RELIANCE ON INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM (FIRST) OR SUBSTITUTION OF U.S. SECURITY GUARANTEES (SECOND) AS INDUCEMENT FOR COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT ARMS RESTRAINT. SINCE RELIANCE ON INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM HAS SO FAR WORKED FOR COSTA RICA (THREATS FROM ABROAD WERE THUS THWARTED IN THE 40S AND 50S), IT COULD WORK FOR THE REST OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, THEY WOULD REASON. OVERT RELIANCE ON U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN JO 00395 271727Z

SECURITY GUARANTEES WOULD BE LESS DESIRABLE FOR THE COSTA RICANS DUE TO THE PATERNALIST IMAGE IT IMPLIES. TODMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MUNITIONS CONTROL, STUDIES, ARMS SHIPMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANJO00395
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760031-0097
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760118/aaaaaozb.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 15423
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <12 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REGIONAL STUDY OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS SUPPLY
TAGS: MARR, CS, XM, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006